2. The anticalculus dentifrice composition according to claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial agent is present in the composition in an amount from about 0.01% to about 5.0%.

3. The anticalculus dentifrice composition according to claim 1, wherein the highly soluble alkali metal pyrophosphate salt has an aqueous solubility greater than 500 g/kg at 25° C.

4. The anticalculus dentifrice composition according to claim 3, wherein the highly soluble alkali metal pyrophosphate salt is tetrapotassium pyrophosphate.

5. The anticalculus dentifrice composition according to claim 4, wherein about 1.3% by weight of the pyrophosphate ion is present in the composition.

6. The anticalculus dentifrice composition according to claim 5, wherein the antimicrobial agent comprises thymol in an amount from about 0.01% to about 1.5% by weight of the composition; menthol in an amount from about 0.01% to about 3.0% by weight of the composition; eucalyptol in an amount from about 0.01% to about 1.5% by weight of the composition; and methyl salicylate in an amount from about 0.01% to about 3.0% by weight of the composition.

7. The anticalculus dentifrice composition according to claim 1, wherein the fluoride-releasing compound is selected from the group consisting of monofluorophosphate, alkali metal fluoride, stannous fluoride, aluminum monofluorophosphate, aluminum difluorophosphate, and mixtures thereof.

8. The anticalculus dentifrice composition according to claim 7, wherein the fluoride-releasing compound is present in an amount by weight up to about 1.2% by weight of the composition.

9. An anticalculus dentifrice composition comprising:

(a) an antimicrobially effective amount of a mixture of essential oils comprising: thymol in an amount from about 0.01% to about 1.5% by weight of the composition; menthol in an amount from about 0.01% to about 3.0% by weight of the composition; eucalyptol in an amount from about 0.01% to 1.5% by weight of the composition; and methyl salicylate in an amount from about 0.01% to about 3.0% by weight of the composition:

(b) an anticalculus effective amount of pyrophosphate ion that comprises about 1.3% w/w of the composition and is derived from tetrapotassium pyrophosphate,

(c) a fluoride source,

(d) a dental abrasive, and

(e) an orally acceptable vehicle;

provided that the composition is free of an anticalculus enhancing agent in an amount effective to inhibit hydrolysis of the tetrapotassium pyrophosphate in an oral cavity and the composition has a pH of about 7.5 to about 10.

10. The anticalculus dentifrice composition according to claim 9, wherein the fluoride source is selected from the group consisting of monofluorophosphate, alkali metal fluoride, stannous fluoride, aluminum monofluorophosphate, aluminum difluorophosphate, and mixtures thereof.

11. The anticalculus dentifrice composition according to claim 10, wherein the fluoride source is present in an amount by weight up to about 1.2% by weight of the composition.

12. The anticalculus dentifrice composition according to claim 9, wherein thymol is in an amount from about 0.025% to about 1.0% by weight of the composition; menthol is in an amount from about 0.05% to about 2.5% by weight of the composition; eucalyptol is in an amount from about 0.025% to 1.0% by weight of the composition; and methyl salicylate is in an amount from about 0.05% to about 2.5% by weight of the composition.

13. The anticalculus dentifrice composition according to claim 12, wherein thymol is in an amount from about 0.05% to about 0.8% by weight of the composition; menthol is in an amount from about 0.1% to about 2.0% by weight of the composition; eucalyptol is in an amount from about 0.05% to 0.8% by weight of the composition; and methyl salicylate is in an amount from about 0.1% to about 2.0% by weight of the composition.

14. A method for inhibiting formation of calculus on surfaces of teeth, comprising the step of applying to the teeth a anticalculus dentifrice composition comprising:

(a) an antimicrobial agent comprising thymol, eucalyptol, methyl salicylate and menthol,

(b) a pyrophosphate ion in an anticalculus effective amount from about 0.1% to less than 1.5% by weight of the composition,

(c) a dental abrasive,

(d) an orally acceptable vehicle,

(e) one or more fluoride-releasing compounds; and

wherein the composition is free of an anticalculus enhancing agent, has a pH of about 7.5 to about 10 and the pyrophosphate ion is derived from an alkali metal pyrophosphate salt having an aqueous solubility greater than 200 g/kg at 25° C.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the highly soluble alkali metal pyrophosphate salt is tetrapotassium pyrophosphate.

16. The method according to claim 14, wherein the antimicrobial agent is present in the composition in an amount from about 0.01% to about 5.0%.

17. The method according to claim 14, wherein the highly soluble alkali metal pyrophosphate salt has an aqueous solubility greater than 500 g/kg at 25° C.

18. The method according to claim 14, wherein 1.3% by weight of the pyrophosphate ion is present in the composition.

19. The method according to claim 14, wherein the fluoride-releasing compound is selected from the group consisting of monofluorophosphate, alkali metal fluoride, stannous fluoride, aluminum monofluorophosphate, aluminum difluorophosphate, and mixtures thereof.

20. The method according to claim 18, wherein the fluoride-releasing compound is present in an amount by weight up to about 1.2% by weight of the composition.

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